

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 OMB-01 DRC-01 IO-14 SR-02 ORM-03

ACDA-19 /172 W

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R 200655Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4325

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 3749

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK, IN, BG

SUBJECT: INDO-PAKISTAN-BANGLADESH RELATIONS: PAK COMMENT
ON TRIPARTITE TALKS

REF: ISLAMABAD 3519

1. MFA DIRGEN FOR SOUTH ASIA ABDUL SATTAR REVIEWED IN
GENERAL TERMS DELHI AGREEMENT WITH EMBOFF APRIL 19.
MOST OF GROUND COVERED HAS ALREADY BEEN REPORTED, BUT
SATTAR MENTIONED ONE OR TWO MATTERS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST.

2. SATTAR SAID GOP MINISTER OF STATE FOR DEFENSE AND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS AZIZ AHMED HAD SUGGESTED INCLUSION OF
PHRASE "ON BASIS OF SOVEREIGN EQUALITY" IN FINAL PARA-
GRAPH 16 OF AGREEMENT WHICH REITERATED "THE RESOLVE OF
THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO WORK FOR THE PROMOTION OF NORMALI-
ZATION OF RELATIONS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DURABLE
PEACE IN THE SUB-CONTINENT". ACCORDING TO SATTAR, AHMED
POINTED OUT THAT SOVEREIGN EQUALITY WAS PHRASE USED
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REPEATEDLY DURING PAST TWO YEARS WHEN SUBJECT OF

POSSIBLE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN GOP AND BDG RAISED. TO PAK SURPRISE, KEWAL SINGH COMMENTED THAT HE WAS "SICK" OF HEARING THIS PHRASE, SWARAN SINGH ADDED THAT IT WAS MERE PLATITUDE AND PAKS DROPPED SUBJECT, NOT WANTING TO KINDER ADOPTION OF AGREEMENT OVER THIS ONE POINT. SATTAR ASSERTED THAT GOI RELUCTANCE TO INCLUDE THIS PHRASE SUGGESTED TO PAKS THAT GOI CONSIDERED ITSELF MORE THAN EQUAL TO PAKISTAN AND THAT THIS EPISODE HAD TROUBLED AND CONTINUED TO TROUBLE PAKISTAN.

3. SATTAR SAID QUESTION OF NON-BENGALEES WAS RAISED VERY GENTLY BY BDG REPRESENTATIVES SINCE TRIPARTITE MEETING HAD THE 195 POW'S AS SOLE AGENDA ITEM. SATTAR REVIEWED NUMBERS ALONG FAMILIAR LINES, BUT DID CONFIRM THAT GOP HAD AGREED TO INCLUDE MEMBERS OF EAST PAKISTAN CIVIL ARMED FORCES UNDER "HARDSHIP" CATEGORY FOR REPEATRIATION.

4. AS TO NEXT ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS, SATTAR SAID GOP HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY OFFICIAL WORD FROM BDG ABOUT BILATERAL MEETING ALTHOUGH GOP HAD NOTED BDG PRESS REPORTS OF POSSIBLE MEETING AS EARLY AS MAY. MAY MEETING WOULD POSE NO PROBLEM FOR GOP.BYROADE

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